

in its abundance in dry rocky valleys where there is not a drop of water, it differs widely from the habits of the allied genus *Alcedo*; although certainly it abounded more in those valleys where streamlets occurred. This Halcyon was the only brilliantly coloured bird which I saw on the island of St. Jago.

1. *CERYLE AMERICANA*, *Boie*.

*Alcedo Americana*, *Gmel.*

This Kingfisher is common on the banks of the Parana. It frequents the borders of lakes and rivers, and sitting on the branch of a tree, or on a stone, it thence takes short flights, and dashes into the water to secure its prey. Its manner of flying is neither direct nor rapid, which character is so remarkable in the flight of the European species; but it is weak and undulatory, and resembles that of the soft-billed birds. It often arrests itself suddenly in its course, and hovers over the surface of the water, preparatory to darting on some small fish. When seated on a twig it constantly elevates and depresses its tail; and as might have been expected from its figure, it does not sit in the stiff upright position so peculiar to the European Kingfisher. Its note is not unfrequently uttered: it is low, and like the clicking together of two small stones. I was informed that it builds in trees. The internal coating of the stomach is of a fine orange colour. Mr. Gould has seen specimens of this bird from Mexico; it enjoys, therefore, a very wide range.

2. *CERYLE TORQUATA*, *Bonap.*

*Alcedo torquata*, *Gmel.*

*Ispida torquata*, *Swain.*

This bird is common in the south part of Chile, in Chiloe, the Chonos Archipelago, and on the whole west coast, as far as the extreme southern parts of Tierra del Fuego. In these countries, it almost exclusively frequents the retired bays and channels of the sea with which the land is intersected; and lives on marine productions. I opened the stomach of one, and found it full of the remains of crustaceæ, and a part of a small fish. It occurs likewise in La Plata, and is very common in Brazil, where it haunts fresh water. It is said (*Dict. Class. d'Hist. Nat.*) to occur in the West Indian islands; it has, therefore, a wider range (from the equatorial region to the neighbourhood of Cape Horn) than the *Ceryle Americana*.

FAMILY.—MUSCICAPIDÆ. *Vieill.*

SUB-FAM.—TYRANNINÆ. *Sw.*

SAUROPHAGUS SULPHURATUS. *Swains.*

*Lanius sulphuratus*, *Gmel.*

*Tyrannus magnanimus*, *Vieill.* *Ency. Meth.* p. 850.

*Tyrannus sulphuratus*, *D'Orb. et Lafr.* *Mag. de Zool.* 1837, p. 42.

The habits of this bird are singular. It is very common in the open country, on the northern banks of the Plata, where it does not appear to be a bird of passage. It obtains its food in many different methods. I have frequently observed it, hunting a field, hovering over one spot like a hawk, and then proceeding on to another. When seen from a short distance, thus suspended in the air, it might very readily be mistaken for one of the rapacious order; its stoop, however, is very inferior in force and rapidity. At other times the *Saurophagus* haunts the neighbourhood of water, and there, remaining stationary, like a kingfisher, it catches any small fish which come near the margin. These birds not unfrequently are kept, with their wings cut, either in cages or in court-yards. They soon become tame, and are very amusing from their cunning odd manners, which were described to me, as being similar to those of the common magpie. Their flight is undulatory, for the weight of the head and bill appears too great for the body. In the evening the *Saurophagus* takes its stand on a bush, often by the road-side, and continually repeats, without change, a shrill and rather agreeable cry, which somewhat resembles articulate words. The Spaniards say it is like the words, "Bien te veo" (I see you well), and accordingly have given it this name.

MUSCIVORA TYRANNUS. *G. R. Gray.*

*Muscicapa Tyrannus*, *Sw.*

*Tyrannus Savana*, *Vieill.* *Bonap. Am. Orn.* pl. 1. f. 1.

This species belongs to Mr. Swainson's genus *Milvulus* (more properly *Milvulus*), but which name Mr. G. R. Gray has altered to *Muscivora* as the latter was proposed for *Musc. forficata* as far back as 1801, by Lacepède.

It is very common near Buenos Ayres; but I do not recollect having seen many in Banda Oriental. It sits on the bough of a tree, and very frequently on